SOUTH DAKOTA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Values. Ethics. Advocacy.

2600 W 49th Street, Suite 200 Sioux Falls, SD 57105-6569



FEB 2 1 2020

Jeffrey Murray, MD, President
South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners
101 N Main Ave Ste 301
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6411

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www.sdsma.org

February 19, 2020

Jeffrey Murray, MD, President South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners 101 N Main Ave Ste 301 Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6411

Dear Dr. Murray:

On behalf of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA), we wish to indicate our support of the proposed change to rule 20:45:03:03 as stated in the Feb. 13, 2020 announcement.

The SDSMA believes that privacy and confidentiality of a physician's health and treatment history is important to allow those in need of help to come forward without fear of disciplinary action. The SDSMA further believes that in situations in which an impaired physician is able to receive assistance while safely and effectively continuing to treat patients, the use of confidential services in lieu of regulatory awareness, will mitigate fear of negative impacts on licensure, employment, or collegial relationships. When confidential services are not available or licensees fear that reporting requirements will negatively impact their licensure status and/or renewal, it is less likely they will seek assistance and appropriate treatment early. Thereby foregoing opportunities for early detection of a potentially impairing illness or recovery.

In closing, we thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the rulemaking process, and ask that our letter of support be entered into record on March 12, 2020.

Sincerely,

Chief Executive Officer Barbara A. Smith

President Robert J. Summerer, D.O. Madison

Benjamin C. Aaker, M.D. Brandon

Vice President Kara L. Dahl, M.D.

Aberdeen

Mitchell

Secretary/Treasurer Jessica A. Claussen, M.D. Robert Summerer, DO, President South Dakota State Medical Association

cc. Barbara A. Smith, SDSMA CEO